

The commenter proposes retaining the existing Section 5.6 (62-1999). He states that "existing language is adequate to address the issue" and goes on to note that the "proposed new language gives special exceptions for sheet metal without providing justification".

Project Committee Response:

The Committee rejects the commenter's proposal to retain the existing language from 62-1999. ASHRAE has charged the Committee with converting 62-1999 into a "code-enforceable" document. The existing language includes informative language that must be removed to satisfy this charge to the Committee. The proposed addendum removes the informative language and, then, specifies requirements (enforceable) for airstream surfaces.

As to the second comment, the Committee recognizes that microorganisms can, and do, grow on sheet metal surfaces. This fact is well documented in numerous peer-reviewed publications. The exemption included in the proposed addendum relates only to the requirement to "test" the resistance to microbial growth for newly manufactured sheet metal. This exemption was added to the addendum because it was generally accepted that new sheet metal products do not support microbial growth and, thus, testing is not necessary. However, the exemption does not imply that microbial growth will not occur on sheet metal airstream surfaces that become contaminated with nutritive materials (e.g., machine-oil contamination from the duct manufacturing process or dirt accumulation) and then become wetted. This is an important issue that will be addressed in the Guide for this Standard. In addition, fabrication and installation issues for airstream surfaces will also be addressed through a proposed addendum for the new Sections 7 and 8 of the Standard. The Committee will assure that concerns regarding machine-oil contamination from the fabrication of sheet metal ducts is appropriately covered.